

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 26, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 8, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 28, 2003

SENATE BILL

No. 680

Introduced by Senator McPherson

February 21, 2003

An act relating to student financial aid.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 680, as amended, McPherson. Student financial aid: Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program: high school grade point average: nontraditional, returning, and older adult students.

Existing law, known as the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act, establishes the Cal Grant A and B entitlement awards, the California Community College Transfer Entitlement awards, the Competitive Cal Grant A and B awards, the Cal Grant C awards, and the Cal Grant T awards under the administration of the Student Aid Commission, and establishes eligibility requirements for awards under these programs for participating students attending qualifying institutions.

An existing provision of the act defines "high school grade point average" as a grade point average calculated on a 4.0 scale, using all academic coursework, except that during the sophomore year, the summer following the sophomore year, the junior year, and the summer following the junior year, the grades for physical education, reserve officer training corps, and remedial courses are excluded from that calculation.

Existing provisions of the act require applicants for competitive Cal Grant A awards or competitive Cal Grant B awards to comply with various requirements, among which is the attainment of a minimum high school grade point average.

This bill would require the Student Aid Commission to convene a committee to review the existing formula for calculating high school grade point averages under the act. The bill would require the commission to report the findings and recommendations of this committee to the Legislature. The bill would also require the commission to review the issue of whether the act provides adequate resources for nontraditional, returning, and older adult students, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature *prior to December 1, 2004*.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Student Aid Commission shall convene
2 a committee to review the existing formula for calculating high
3 school grade point averages under the
4 Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Act. This
5 commission shall report the findings and recommendations of this
6 committee to the Legislature. Members of the committee shall
7 include, at a minimum, representatives of the high school
8 community, as well as representatives of the California
9 Community Colleges, the California State University, the
10 University of California, the Association of Independent
11 California Colleges and Universities, the California
12 Postsecondary Education Commission, and the Superintendent of
13 Public Instruction.

14 (b) The Student Aid Commission shall review the issue of
15 whether the Ortiz-Pacheco-Poochigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant
16 Act provides adequate resources for nontraditional, returning, and
17 older adult students. The commission shall report its findings and
18 recommendations on this issue to the Legislature *prior to*
19 *December 1, 2004*.

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